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**JAN 27 2005**

**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**FROM: Alex R. Pagano, Reg. No. 44,994**  
**Re: U.S. Patent No. 10/717,856**

**Date January 27, 2005**

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**TO: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment (Art Unit 1731)**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**FAX NO.: 703-872-9306**  
**VOICE**  
**NO.:**

**Items:**

- (1) Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (7 sheets);**
- (2) Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) (1 sheet);**
- (3) Duplicate Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) (1 sheet); and**
- (4) This fax cover (1 sheet).**

**TOTAL PAGES (WITH COVER) 10**

**CLIENT ID/MATTER #: V8998-6**

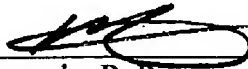
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V8998/6  
01/27/2005 1671419.01

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306 on January 27, 2005.

  
Alexander R. Pagano  
Reg. No. 44,994  
Attorney for Applicant

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*In re* Application of E. Mies

Serial No.: 10/717,856

Filing Date: November 19, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FORMING LOW OPTICAL LOSS  
SPLICES

Attorney Docket No. V8998-6

Examiner: J. M. Hoffmann

Art Unit: 1731

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

SIR:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed September 27, 2004 (the "Office Action"), please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of the above-captioned application (the "Application"). Claim amendments are set forth below.

V8998/6  
01/27/2005 1669466.03